

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SSO-00 ARAE-00 CU-02 RSC-01 /015 W

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O 221745Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8563

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7795

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OREP, AR, US

SUBJ: DEPUTIES WISH TO JOIN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO US

REF: BA 6704

1. PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES RAUL LASTIRI'S PRIVATE SECRETARY CALLED EMBOFF LAST EVENING (OCT 21) TO REQUEST EMBASSY GOOD OFFICES IN CASE OF SIX DEPUTIES WHOM CHAMBER AT LAST MOMENT HAS DESIGNATED TO JOIN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION GOING TO US TO OBSERVE US ELECTIONS. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT INVITATIONS CAME FROM LEGISLATIVE BRACNH OF USG AND WERE BEING HANDLED BY AMB ORFILA; REQUEST THEREFORE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO LATTER THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY. SECRETARY SAID THEY HAD ALREADY MADE REQUEST TO AMB ORFILA WHO HAD REPLIED THAT DEPT OF STATE HAD INDICATED IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SIX CONGRESSMEN ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THEY WISHED TO ASK EMBASSY IF IT COULD INTERCEDE WITH DEPT OF STATE IN THEIR BEHALF. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT SINCE DEPT OF STATE NOT HOST AND HAD NOT HAD PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARRANGING PROGRAM, IT SEEMED DOUBTFUL THAT SUCH INTERCESSION WOULD CHANGE PICTURE. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO CONSULT WITH PRINCIPALS WITH VIEW TO SENDING CALBE ASKING DEPT IF THERE WERE ANYTHING THAT CUOULD BE DONE TO SOLVE PROBLEM. SECRETARY SAID HE INTENDED TO CALL FONMIN TO ASK LATTER TO INTERCEDE WITH ORFILA.

2. EMBOFF SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED NORTH AMERICAN DESK. OFFICERS THERE READ OVER PHONE CABLE FROM ORFILA IN WHICH HE INSTRUCTED THEM TO POINT OUT TO CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES THAT THEY HAD WAITED  
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TOO LONG TO REPLY TO INVITATION AND THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH

OFFICERS OF CONGRESS AND DEPT OF STATE INDICATED THAT WITH CONGRESS IN RECESS IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE ARRANGMENTS IN REMAINING FEW DAYS.

3. WE UNCERTAIN WHERE BLAME FOR LATE REPLY LIES. WE HAD ASSUMED THAT FONMIN SENT NOTE TO CHAMBER AT SAME TIME IT SENT ONE TO SENATE (SEE REFTTEL). UCR BLOC LEADER TROCCOLI HOWEVER TELLS US HE UNDERSTANDS NOTE SENT ONLY TO SENATE WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO ADVISE AND INCORPORATE DEPUTIES BUT FAILED TO NOTIFY CHAMBER UNTIL TOO LATE. WHATEVER THE CASE, IT WILL BE LAMENTABLE IF ILL FEELINGS SHOULD BE GENERATED BY MISUNDERSTANDINGS CONCERNING INVITATION WHICH OBVIOUSLY WAS MEANT TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. EMBASSY CONCERNED, MOREOVER, THAT MANY CONGRESSMEN DO NOT UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS ORFILA'S SHOW, NOT OURS, AND THAT POSSIBLE BAD FEELINGS GENERATED BY DEPUTIES FAILURE TO TRAVEL WILL BE DIRECTED AT USG, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY AT EMBASSY, RATHER THAN AT THOSE WHO FOULED UP INVITATION TO CHAMBER.

4. EMBASSY ASSUMES ORFILA CORRECT AND THAT WITH US CONGRESS IN RECESS IT WOULD IN FACT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE SATISFACTORY PROGRAMS FOR SIX DEPUTIES. DOES DEPT CONCUR IN THAT ASSESSMENT?

5. ASSUMING THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE PROGRAM FOR SIX DEPUTIES NOW, AS WE EXPECT IT IS, EMBASSY HOPES TO MUTE IMPACT THROUGH FOLLOWING REPLY TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES:

A. AGAIN EMPHASIZE THAT DEPT OF STATE IS NOT HOST.  
B. ASSURE, NONETHELESS THAT DEPT OF STATE OF COURSE WILLING TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSIST IN ARRANGING THESE AND OTHER PROGRAMS FOR ARGENTINE CONGRESSMEN.  
C. POINT OUT HOWEVER THAT GIVEN THAT US CONGRESS IN RECESS AND ONLY FOUR DAYS REMAIN UNTIL DEPARTURE DELEGATION, DEPT IS POWERLESS TO ALTER SITUATION.  
D. SUGGEST THAT CHAMBER AUTHORITIES MAY WISH TO CONSULT WITH AMB ORFILA AND FONMIN TO SEE IF IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE SUBSEQUENT PROGRAM FOR SIX DEPUTIES. IF THEY CANNOT TRAVEL TO US TO OBSERVE ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER, PERHAPS THEY COULD

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GO IN JANUARY TO ATTEND INAUGURAL SESSION OF NEW CONGRESS WHICH CULMINATES ELECTORAL PROCESS. THEY COULD THEN MEET NEW MEMBERS ETC.

6. WE UNDERSTAND OF COURSE THAT SUGGESTION IN POINT D MAY BE COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT ORFILA'S AIRLINE TICKETS SUPPOSEDLY EXPIRE END OF DECEMBER. NONETHELESS, SUGGESTION WOULD GIVE CHAMBER ALTERNATIVE TO WORK ON AND WOULD PUT ONUS BACK WHERE

IT BELONGS--BETWEEN ORFILA AND ARGENTINE CONGRESS. WE FEEL  
CONFIDENT THAT AIRLINES MIGHT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES BE WILLING  
TO EXTEND EXPIRATION DATE OF TICKETS.

7. UNLESS DEPT PERCEIVES SOME OVERRIDING OBJECTION, WE INTEND  
TO MAKE OUTLINED REPLY MORNING OCT 23.  
HILL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BUENOS07795  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BA 6704  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPUTIES WISH TO JOIN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO US  
**TAGS:** OEXC, OREP, AR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005